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The FBI's spy-a-day performance, just when the Bureau is under domestic fire itself, evidences its energy and vigilance. On Tuesday a retired Army colonel was charged with conspiring to deliver defense secrets to Soviet military attaches from 1959 to 1961, and on Wednesday two Czech diplomats were implicated in a fresh, audacious and apparently unprecedented effort to "bug" the State Department. The public hasn't been told how the colonel was recruited or unmasked. In the Czech case, the plot was foiled by an American who, in cooperation with the FBI, took the Czechs for a five-year ride.

By now no one is surprised when another spy or two is flushed out of the Soviet Embassy. They have a CIA too; in fact, they have two, one military and one civilian. It's a little different for the Czech Embassy which seeks favors in Washington and tries hard to make friends around town and now looks not only hostile but stupid. Retaliatory expulsion of an American diplomat from Prague would only confirm this impression.